



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 565

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5504

House of Representatives, April 11, 2016

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. REED of the 102nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
SESSIONS FOR PROJECTS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE
SITING COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-50p of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (k) as follows (*Effective from passage and applicable to*
3 *facilities that obtain certificates on and after July 1, 2016*):

4 (NEW) (k) (1) If the council issued a certificate for a facility and the
5 construction of such facility has not commenced as of three years after
6 the date of the council's order issuing such certificate, the council shall
7 hold a public information session in the same county a public hearing
8 was held in pursuant to subsection (a) of section 16-50m. Such public
9 information session shall provide information regarding the status of
10 such facility. The council shall provide notice of the date and location
11 of such public information session in the manner prescribed in
12 subsection (c) of section 16-50m.

13 (2) If the council issued a certificate for a facility and the
14 construction of such facility is not complete as of three years after the
15 date of the council's order issuing such certificate, the council shall
16 cause a new copy of the notice of the application to be given in the
17 manner set forth in subsection (b) of section 16-50l.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage and applicable to facilities that obtain certificates on and after July 1, 2016</i>	16-50p

ET Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Siting Council	SCF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: SCF=Siting Council Fund

Municipal Impact: None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Siting Council to provide a new copy of a facility's notice of application if construction is not completed within three years. It is anticipated the Siting Council will incur potential minimal costs for mailing and publishing expenses dependent on the number of applications not completed.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future dependent on the number of applications.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5504*****AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PROJECTS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE SITING COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council to meet certain hearing and notice requirements if a facility that it approves fails to meet certain construction deadlines. By law, developers must obtain a Siting Council certificate before building or modifying a variety of energy and telecommunications facilities.

For facilities that obtain a certificate on or after July 1, 2016, the bill requires the council to hold a public information session about the facility's status if construction has not started within three years after the council issued its certificate. The council must (1) hold the session in the same county that it held the public hearing for the facility during the certification process and (2) provide notice about the session's date and location the same way that it provides notice for public hearings. (Generally, within one week after setting a date and location, the council must mail notices to everyone entitled to receive a copy of the original application and publish a general notice to the public in at least ten point bold face type.)

If a facility's construction is not completed within three years after the council issued its certificate, the bill requires the council to provide a new copy of the facility's notice of application the same way that the original notice of application was provided. (Generally, a summary of the application must be published in local newspapers and, depending on the facility type, mailed to any abutting property owners or included in electric bills.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to facilities that obtain certificates on and after July 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

sHB 5310, reported favorably by the Energy and Technology Committee, requires the Siting Council, when considering an application to site a facility in only one municipality, to hold the community participation portion of at least one public hearing in that municipality.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 1 (03/22/2016)